

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-22, and 24-34 are pending in the present application after this amendment adds new claims 32-34. Claims 29-31 have been amended into independent form. No new matter is added by the amendments and new claims, which find support throughout the specification and figures. In particular, the new claims find support at least in the specification at page 6, line 24 to page 9, line 4. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the Office Action indicates in the summary that claim 28 is rejected, but provides no detailed explanation of the basis for rejecting claim 28. Applicants respectfully request a detailed examination of claim 28, or alternatively that the rejection of claim 28 be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner acknowledges that claims 29-31 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 29-31 have been amended into independent form, including the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 29-31 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, 25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,766,079 to Kataoka et al. (hereinafter Kataoka). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to a virtual space control method that includes, *inter alia*, the step of changing a screen image in response to the change in orientation of the prescribed part. The screen image represents a virtual field of view of the virtual space defined by a viewpoint other than a viewpoint of the virtual character and ***includes a whole image of the virtual character***.

The Examiner asserts that Kataoka discloses the feature that the screen image includes a whole image of the virtual character and cites figure 7C of Kataoka as purporting to show this feature. (Office Action; page 2, lines 14-16). However, figure 7C of Kataoka gives no disclosure or suggestion of a ***field of view*** of camera 130 with respect to tank 31, and therefore there can be no conclusion that camera 130 includes a whole image of a virtual character. The accompanying description in Kataoka relating to figure 7C only states that the position shown is “high in the sky behind tank 31.” (Kataoka; col. 6, lines 55-56). Therefore, Kataoka does not identically disclose or even suggest the feature of showing the whole image of the virtual character.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claims 10 and 19 include features similar to claim 1 and therefore these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 11-13, 15, 16, and 18 depend from claim 10 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10 is allowable. Claims 20-22, 24, 25, and 27 depend from claim 19 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 19 is allowable.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 8, 17, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kataoka. Applicants respectfully traverse.

No additional references are cited in the rejection of claims 8, 17, and 26, and therefore these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims are allowable.

NEW CLAIMS

New claim 32 relates to a virtual space control method that includes the steps of changing an orientation of a prescribed part (e.g., the head object 202) of a virtual character in a virtual space and changing a screen image in response to the change in orientation of the prescribed part. The virtual character includes the prescribed part (e.g., the head object 202), first part (e.g., the neck object) and second part (e.g., the chest object). The prescribed part (e.g., the head object 202) is connected to the first part (e.g., the neck object) and the first part (e.g., the neck object) is connected to the second part (e.g., the chest object). When the prescribed part (e.g., the head object 202) moves at a first angle (e.g., 60°), the first part (the neck object) moves at a second angle (e.g., 36°) and the second part (e.g., the chest object) moves at a third angle (e.g., 12°). The first angle (e.g., 60°) is not less than the sum of the second angle (e.g., 36°) and the third angle (e.g., 12°).

It is respectfully submitted that Kataoka does not disclose or suggest all of the features of new claim 32, and therefore new claim 32 is allowable over the reference.

Claims 33 and 34 depend from claim 32 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 32 is allowable.

Additionally, claim 33 recites that the ratio of the second angle (e.g., 60%) to the first angle (e.g., 100%) is established, and claim 34 recites that the ratio of the third angle (e.g., 20%) to the first angle (e.g., 100%) is established.

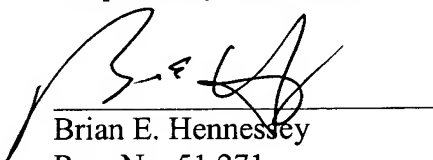
It is respectfully submitted that Kataoka does not disclose or suggest all of the features of new claims 33 or 34, and therefore new claims 33 and 34 are allowable at least for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
PHONE: (212) 940-8800
FAX: (212) 940-8776
DOCKET No.: SCEY 19.483 (100809-00172)
BEH:pm